

THE COLORADO MAGAZINE

Published bi-monthly by
The State Historical Society of Colorado

Vol. XX

Denver, Colorado, March, 1943

No. 2

Colorado's First Legislative Assembly

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Twenty-two men gathered at Denver in early September, 1861, in the first Legislative Assembly of Colorado Territory. Formation of this law-making body had been authorized by the "Organic Act" creating Colorado Territory, which Congress had passed and President Buchanan signed on February 28, 1861. That Congressional enactment contained the following provisions:

The legislative power and authority of said Territory shall be vested in the governor and a legislative assembly.

The legislative assembly shall consist of a council and house of representatives. The council shall consist of nine members, which may be increased to thirteen, having the qualifications of voters as hereinafter prescribed, whose term of service shall continue two years. The house of representatives shall consist of thirteen members, which may be increased to twenty-six, possessing the same qualifications as prescribed for members of the council, and whose term of service shall continue one year.¹

The same Organic Act provided that "no one session shall exceed the term of forty days, except the first, which may be extended to sixty days, but no longer."

As to remuneration, there was this provision: "The members of the legislative assembly shall be entitled to receive three dollars each per day during their attendance at the session thereof, and three dollars for every twenty miles travel in going to and returning from the said session, estimating according to the nearest usually traveled route."

The Governor who shared legislative authority with the General Assembly was Colonel William Gilpin of Missouri, who had been named chief executive of the Territory by Abraham Lincoln. Gilpin had visited the Colorado region first in 1843, while accompanying Fremont on an exploring expedition to Oregon. At that time the only white inhabitants of Colorado were fur trappers and hunters; the only white habitations were trading posts such as Bent's Fort on the Arkansas and Fort Lupton on the Platte. Gilpin subsequently returned to Colorado as a major under

¹The Organic Act was published along with the *General Laws, Joint Resolutions, Memorials, and Private Acts, Passed at the First Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Colorado*, etc.

Kearny in the Mexican War and as a leader in campaigns against the Indians. Consequently, when he reached Colorado as Governor, on May 27, 1861, he was treading familiar ground.

Soon after arrival, Governor Gilpin had a census taken of Colorado Territory. It showed a population of but 25,331,² about one-third less than reported the previous year. The outbreak of the Civil War accounted for the decrease, as many sons of the North and of the South had returned home to defend their respective sections.

By a Proclamation of July 11, 1861, Governor Gilpin divided the Territory into nine Council Districts and thirteen Representative Districts, and set August 19 as the day for election of members to the first legislature.³

A short but vigorous campaign ensued, which resulted in a victory for the supporters of the Lincoln administration. In reporting the official election returns, the *Colorado Republican and Rocky Mountain Herald* of August 28, commented:

We are glad to report a majority of Republicans in both Houses, and a number of strong Administration Democrats, who will bear a good record on all questions of importance to the Territory, and the present administration. We know our legislature is a good one for the country.

Governor Gilpin issued a Proclamation announcing the names of persons elected to the legislature and calling the members to convene at Denver September 9, 1861.⁴

The meeting places prepared for the two houses were described as "convenient and comfortable."

The Council Chamber is in the building directly opposite the Broadwell House, on Larimer Street; and the House of Representatives in the new building adjoining the Post Office. Both are well fitted up for the convenience of members, and the lobby is provided with seats capable of accommodating an hundred or more spectators.⁵

The Council Chamber was therefore on the site of the Dave Cook Sporting Goods Store; the House, on the site of the American Auction Furniture Company (1451-55 Larimer). The Governor's executive offices were on the second floor of the New York Store, on the corner now occupied by Joe Alpert's Clothing Store.

The Council was called to order at ten o'clock on September 9 by Lewis Ledyard Weld, Secretary of the Territory.⁶ The body comprised the following members: H. J. Graham, Amos Steck,

²The summary figures of this census, as reported by the U. S. Marshal in September, were: white males, 20,758; females, 4,484; negroes, 89.

³This Proclamation was published daily in the *Colorado Republican and Rocky Mountain Herald*—hereafter cited as the *Republican*—during the month preceding August 19, 1861.

⁴This was published in the *Republican* of August 27 and 28 and September 6, 1861.

⁵*Rocky Mountain News*—hereafter cited as the *News*—September 10, 1861.

⁶For a biographical sketch of Secretary Weld, see the *Colorado Magazine* of November, 1942.

C. W. Mather, H. F. Parker, A. U. Colby, S. M. Robbins, E. A. Arnold, R. B. Willis and J. M. Francisco. Of the man chosen President of the Council the *Rocky Mountain News* commented on September 11:

Dr. E. A. Arnold, who has been chosen to this office is a gentleman well qualified to fill it, and will reflect credit upon the deliberations of that body. The Doctor is a practical miner—has dug gold in almost every mining district in the Territory, and prospected the mountains from Long's Peak to the San Juan. His residence for some months past has been in California Gulch [present Leadville], where he is engaged in mining operations this season.

Later, Dr. Arnold is reported to have set out for Carson Valley, Nevada, and on the way to have been killed and scalped by the Indians.⁷

There were other outstanding men in the Council. H. J. Graham had been elected, in the fall of 1858, as the first delegate of the people of the Pike's Peak region to represent them in Washington. He carried to the national capital a petition asking the organization of a Territory in the new gold country, but Congress did not comply at that session. Graham paid his own expenses on the trip and was never re-imbursed.

Amos Steck had joined the California gold rush of 1849⁸ and came to Colorado in 1859. He was the first postmaster of Denver, the second mayor of the city (1863-65), was county judge 1874-80, and State Senator for two terms.

Colonel John M. Francisco was a Virginian who early moved to New Mexico and then to southern Colorado. In 1852 he was sutler at Fort Massachusetts (six miles north of Fort Garland), the first military fort in Colorado. He built Francisco plaza, which later became the town of La Veta.

Robert B. Willis of New York came to Colorado in 1858. He was one of the founders of Colorado City, predecessor of Colorado Springs. Later he became a prominent cattleman and rancher in Huerfano County.

The House of Representatives was composed of the following members: Charles F. Holly, E. S. Wilhite, Edwin Scudder, W. A. Rankin, J. B. Chaffee, J. H. Noteware, Daniel Witter, G. F. Crocker, G. M. Chilcott, Daniel Steel, O. A. Whittemore, Victor Garcia, and Jesus Barela.

Judge Charles F. Holly was elected Speaker of the House. The *News* characterized him as "a gentleman of long experience and peculiar tact in the position he occupies. He is a prompt, dignified and firm officer, and will discharge his duties faithfully

⁷*The Trail*, June, 1926, pp. 11-12.

⁸The State Historical Society has the original diary kept on that trip.

and well. His residence is in the Boulder mines, where he is engaged in mining and quartz milling."⁹

There were other men in the House destined for fame in Colorado. Jerome B. Chaffee became a prominent mine operator, the first president of the First National Bank of Denver, and one of the first two United States Senators from Colorado, in 1876.

George M. Chilcott became a prominent leader in Pueblo County. He was Colorado's Delegate to Congress, 1867-69; served several terms in the legislature during the 1870s; and was United States Senator, 1882-83.

Daniel Witter, brother-in-law of Vice President Schuyler Colfax, became the first land attorney in Colorado. After being elected to Colorado's second Legislative Assembly, he walked from his home on Tarryall Creek in South Park to the capital at Colorado City. He was later prominent in real estate, banking, and other business enterprises.

The two houses met in joint session September 10, to hear the Governor's Message. Governor Gilpin had earned a reputation as an orator and was a master of the type of rhetoric popular eighty years ago. We quote from the Message:

Fellow Citizens of the Legislative Assembly of Colorado Territory: Accept my congratulations, gentlemen, that the auspicious hour has arrived for the meeting of the Legislative Assembly of the people of Colorado. Accept, also, the expressions of satisfaction with which I welcome you to inaugurate government on the foundation of the will and power of the people.

The stern and delicate duty which is confided to you, is to create and condense into system and order the elements of stable government for this commonwealth of the primeval mountains. . . .

I recommend to you the subdivision of our Territorial area into counties, . . .

It is in these complete little republics where the sovereign power of the people is always in exercise, where self government has a perpetual vitality, and independent freedom is practiced and enjoyed. . . .

Pre-eminent among the principles which give vigor and stability to civilized society, is Education. . . .

The pressing necessity of military efficiency in discipline and arms is rendered absolute, by the presence of twenty-five thousand resident Indians intermingled with our people, . . .

It is through the centre of Colorado Territory, then that the CONTINENTAL RAILWAY is about to be constructed, which a few years will complete. Our Territory will be bisected, East and West, by the grandest work of all time, constructed to fraternize the domestic relations of our own people, and to draw, to and fro, through the heart of the American Union, the travel and commerce of all the nations, and all the continents of the world. . . .

Our great country demands a period of stern virtue, of holy zeal, of regenerating patriotism, of devoted citizens. It is to you, representatives, and to the people of the young Territory of Colorado, that I speak. To exalt your intrepid enthusiasm, is my aim. With us are the Continental Eagles, and the Continental Cause, immortal-

⁹News, September 11, 1861.

ized by the purity of Washington, illuminated by the wisdom of Jefferson, vindicated and restored by the illustrious Jackson. Let us condense around these Eagles, and advance, devoted to maintain their purity and to exalt their glory.

I commend your hearts to a steadfast faith in the Supreme power of God, fortified by the contemplation of the stupendous forms of nature with which He surrounds us, and from which no element of sublimity is left out. We must seek, in the colossal dimensions and sublime forms of nature with which we are encircled, and upward to the Supreme Throne of Grace, inspiration of wisdom, moderation and energy, to set the foundations of a Commonwealth which shall beat back the shocks of time, and stand as firm and enduring as the loftiest mountain.

— WILLIAM GILPIN.¹⁰



THE BROADWELL HOUSE

The Governor's message received the following appraisal by the *News*:

This able State paper, which we gave to our readers yesterday, is deserving of more than passing notice. In its beauty of style, smoothness and elegance of composition, it can hardly be excelled by any writer of the age. As a review of the history, progress, capacity and resources of our glorious and beautiful Territory, it is perfect, though brief.¹¹

When the members of the legislature assembled in Denver they found a number of hotels and boarding houses ready to accommodate them. One of the oldest and most prominent was the Broadwell House, just across the street from the Council Chamber.

¹⁰The Message was published in the Journals of both Houses.

¹¹News, September 12, 1861.

The rates as announced in the *News* of September 14 were: Board per week, \$6; lodging, \$2 extra.

Market prices in Denver on the day the legislature convened were listed in the *News* as follows:

Butter per pound	\$.50	Eggs, per dozen	\$.25
Apples per pound	.12	Flour, per hundredweight	7.50
Potatoes per pound	.08	Wheat per pound	.07
Beans per pound	.08	Lumber per thousand	20.00
Coffee per pound	.30	Shoes per pair	2.50
Sugar per pound	.20	Hay per ton	15.00
Dressed beef per pound	.09	Hides each	1.50
Chewing tobacco per pound	1.50	Coal per ton	8.00

With the legislature in session and miners coming in from the hills, business began to pick up in Denver. On September 28 the *News* reported:

All the Hotels in Denver are doing a fine business. The Cherokee House, the Broadwell, and the Planters, are all crowded, and there is an air of comfort and even luxury pervading all. . . .

Real estate is looking up, we understand of late. In the event of Arsenal and State Capitol being located here, parties could select no better nick of time than now to invest in city property. . . .

No street in Denver has improved so rapidly for two months as Larimer street. The Post Office, Dave's [Moffat] News Depot, the Executive Department, the Military Head Quarters, both Houses of the Legislature, and the Prison (a sort of necessary accompaniment) are all located on this street.

"Rules for the governance of the House" and of the Council were adopted on the third day of the session. The House rules comprised 39 sections, those of the Council, 40. "Jefferson's Manual" was adopted to govern parliamentary practice. Number two of the Council rules reads: "No member shall speak to another, or otherwise interrupt the business of the Council, or read any newspaper, while the Journal or public papers are reading, or when any member is speaking in any debate."¹²

Messrs. Garcia and Barela, Representatives from southern Colorado, did not arrive until five days after the session had commenced. Upon their arrival the House employed an official Spanish interpreter to translate for them. By September 25 the Journal of the House was being published in Spanish in the *News*, official paper of the Territory.

Colorado's first Legislative Assembly passed 93 public acts, 36 private acts and 11 memorials and resolutions.¹³ Most of its time was devoted to enactment of a civil and a criminal code, and to establishment of counties and county machinery. The Common Law of England was declared the basic law of the Territory.

¹²Council Journal of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Colorado. First Session, 10.

¹³This summary description of legislation is gathered from the *General Laws, etc.*, passed at the first legislative session. It was prepared largely by E. C. McMechen.

The first Joint Resolution, approved October 3, proclaimed the loyalty of Colorado to the Union:

. . . Resolved, That all the resources of the Country both in men and means to their utter exhaustion should be at once called out, if needed to defend the National Government, and to preserve the integrity of the Union. . . .¹⁴

Other Joint Resolutions and Memorials requested establishment of a branch mint and post roads and an increase in the pay of legislators from \$3 to \$6 per day. One Resolution adopted and described a Territorial Seal.

Seventeen counties were created and county seats designated as follows: Costilla County, San Miguel; Guadaloupe County, Guadaloupe; Huerfano County, Autubes [Autobeas]; Pueblo County, Pueblo; Fremont County, Canon City; El Paso County, Colorado [City]; Douglas County, Frankstown; Arapahoe County, Denver; Weld County, St. Vrain; Larimer County, Laporte; Boulder County, Boulder; Jefferson County, Golden City; Clear Creek County, Idaho; Gilpin County, Central City; Park County, Tarryall City; Lake County, Oro City; Summit County, Parkville. Of these county seats San Miguel, Guadaloupe, Autobeas, St. Vrain, Tarryall, Oro and Parkville are ghost towns. Guadaloupe County existed on paper for seven days, when its name was changed to Conejos.

Laws creating and defining the duties of county officers were passed, provisions were made for a state militia, a common school system, county jails, revenue and license systems.

Probably the first attempt at social legislation in Colorado was contained in the act creating jails, which declared: "Juvenile prisoners shall be treated with humanity, and in a manner calculated to promote their reformation." Jailers were enjoined to provide separate quarters for juveniles.

Territorial revenue from taxation was fixed at three mills, county levies at six mills, plus a fifty cent poll tax, and the school levy of one-half to two and one-half mills. Interest rates were fixed at 10 per cent, although a higher rate was permissible by stipulation. Imprisonment for debt was forbidden.

The first step toward creation of a fish and game commission is found in an act prohibiting use of seines, nets or baskets to catch trout.

Interest in cultural matters was evidenced by passage of an act establishing the University of Colorado at Boulder. It was to be some years, however, before the institution would take definite form.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, 511.

The acts constituting the civil and penal code offer, perhaps, the most interesting reading. Their perusal emphasizes the vital importance of domestic animals to the pioneer. Stealing or tampering with horses and cattle entailed penalties more severe than do many major felonies today. The six hundred miles of semi-desert between Denver and the Missouri River explains the importance of the horse and steer to the early settlers.

Theft of any domestic animal valued at more than \$10 was made punishable by a jail sentence of twenty years, *or by death*. Altering a brand (rustling) brought one to five years in prison. Contrast this with their penalty for the crime of kidnaping—one to seven years in prison.

Duelling was prohibited on penalty of one to five years in jail and disbarment of principal, second, and "all aiders and abettors," from public office, if one principal died within a year as a result of the contest.

Mayhem—the mutilation of a person by putting out an eye, slitting ear or lip, or otherwise permanently disfiguring an opponent—was made punishable by a one to three year sentence, unless incurred in a "*fight by consent*."

For counterfeiting of coins or gold dust the penalty was one to 14 years; for mixing base metals (usually brass filings) with gold dust, \$1,000 fine or ten years in jail. Use of false scales to weigh gold dust brought a fine of \$500 or six months in jail.

Perjury, securing "the conviction and execution of any innocent person" brought the death penalty. To rescue a convicted prisoner brought to the rescuer the same penalty as that imposed on the rescued.

Anyone betting on "Three Card Monte, The Strap Game, Thimble, The Patent Safe Game or any other game of similar character" was liable to a five year sentence or \$1,000 fine.

Anyone disturbing the peace of private families on the Sabbath by any "noise, rout, amusement or work," was liable to a \$30 fine. Swearing or the use of vulgar language that disturbed Sabbath worship was prohibited on penalty of a \$100 fine, but ministers were not prohibited from preaching hellfire and damnation.

The one law granting a divorce, which the legislature passed, was vetoed by the Governor. And under the Organic Act, the Governor's veto could not be overruled by the legislature.

Private acts passed were in these classifications: name change, 1; incorporation of wagon roads (toll roads), 9; railroads and telegraph, 1; ditch or flume companies, 9; ferries, 4; churches, 1; mining companies, 3; banks, 1; cities and towns, 3 (two applying to Denver); bridges, 1; mining tunnels, 2; fraternal lodges, 1.

All ditch charters except one were for mining operations. The exception was that of the Camp Weld and Denver Ditch and Water Company.

Denver was incorporated and given a charter. The only other town incorporated was Altonia, where Left Hand Creek breaks from the mountains. It has long been a ghost town.

Toll road legislation fixed tolls ranging from 50 cents to \$2 for a wagon and one team, with a varying scale for other types of traffic. A characteristic toll scale was as follows: wagon and one span of animals, \$1.50; each additional span, 25 cents; horseman, 10 cents; loose stock per head, 5 cents; sheep 1 cent per head.

"The Colorado and Pacific Wagon, Telegraph and Railroad Company" was chartered, with right of way over newly-discovered Berthoud Pass. The franchise, looked upon as valuable, had possible sale to the Overland Mail Company operating stage-coaches between the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast, or to the company that would build the first transcontinental railroad. While this charter was being considered, the location of the Territorial capital was being bitterly contested. Support for the road franchise was traded for votes on the capital location.¹⁵ This log-rolling was effective in bringing about the designation of Colorado City as Territorial capital.¹⁶

Colorado's first Legislative Assembly did much in a sixty day session. But not all of members' time was devoted to law-making. In the late afternoon of September 13, the legislature, "the combined wisdom of Colorado,"¹⁷ accepted the invitation of Lieut. Col. Tappan to visit Camp Weld. Members "chartered a prairie schooner," drove the four miles out to the camp, and witnessed a dress parade of the First Regiment of Colorado Volunteers. The site of this Civil War post is immediately north and west of the Eight Street Viaduct of today.

"The first legislative ball of the season" was announced for September 26. But the event was postponed because President Lincoln and Governor Gilpin proclaimed that day as one of "Humiliation, Prayer and Fasting for all the people of the nation," when fervent supplications should be made to Almighty God for the "safety and welfare of these States, His blessing on their arms, and a speedy restoration of peace."¹⁸

The Governor's Ball was given October 1. The *News* of the following day reported: "The Ball given by Governor Gilpin last

¹⁵See discussion of this point in L. R. Hafen, "Pioneer Struggles for a Colorado Road Across the Rockies," in the *Colorado Magazine*, III, 5 (March, 1926).

¹⁶At the second session of the legislature the capital was moved to Golden, and in 1867 Denver was designated the capital.

¹⁷*News*, September 16, 1861.

¹⁸Published in Denver's daily newspapers on September 24, 1861.

evening at the Broadwell House, as everybody anticipated, was the grandest and most extensive affair of the kind ever known in this region. The attendance was very large, and the rooms at the Broadwell were, in consequence, most uncomfortably crowded. . . . The dancing was commenced at an early hour in the evening, and kept up until nearly daylight this morning."

The *Colorado Republican* counted 108 ladies present. "The number of gentlemen, whose deportment added laurels to our country and grace to the occasion, was much larger than that of the ladies, . . . The dancing was continued almost without intermission until the announcement of supper about one o'clock, and was resumed with no less vigor after partaking of the splendid refreshment provided by our host of the Broadwell, until the small hours of the morning waned."

A "Legislative Ball" at the Tremont House on November 8, celebrated the close of the session. It was reported "a grand success—worthy the winding up of the first regular Pike's Peak Legislature."¹⁹

In pioneer times people had to provide their own amusements. As a parody on the new Assembly a "Third House" was organized by Denver citizens. At its first meeting, on September 10, "Judge Bradford was chosen Speaker, and a most happy selection it proved."²⁰ The second meeting is thus reported in the *News*: "Governor Patterson last evening delivered his first annual message to the members of the Third House, at the Tremont Hall. There was a crowded attendance, and the wildest enthusiasm prevailed. The message abounded in keen wit, cutting sarcasm, and telling hits upon officials, legislators, the military, private citizens, etc. We are putting this important document in type, and it will be for sale at our counter tomorrow morning. Those who wish extra copies should leave an order today."²¹

On September 20 the *News* reported: "Third House. This body met last night at the Apollo and transacted considerable business in their line. We are inclined to think the 'Governor' will not need to call an 'extra session' as the business seemed to get nearly wound up last evening."

The newspaper of the following day announced: "Third House. This *Sala de Representantes* will be open tonight at the Apollo Hall. Rich reports are expected from the committees on 'Sound Morality,' 'School Mams,' etc. Admission free."²²

¹⁹*Republican*, November 9, 1861.

²⁰*News*, September 11, 1861.

²¹*Ibid.*, September 12, 1861. On the 18th the *News* reported: "The edition of Governor Patterson's message is exhausted. We shall print another edition if the orders are sufficient to justify it." It would be an interesting document to read today, but apparently no copies have survived.

²²*Ibid.*, September 21, 1861. The local notes in the issue of September 24, announce a meeting of the Third House at Apollo Hall. "A general attendance is requested as a set of rules is to be adopted."

Pre-History of the San Luis Valley

E. B. RENAUD*

The San Luis Valley is one of the most picturesque regions of Colorado and one of special interest to both the historian and the archaeologist. Here one does not see spectacular Cliff-dwellings as on famed Mesa Verde, nor huge pueblos as in Chaco Cañon and other places in New Mexico and Arizona. Yet, the San Luis Valley holds great interest for the archaeologist because of its numerous and varied prehistoric Indian sites and also because we know that the ancient Americans frequented this valley probably for more than 10,000 years. This is a distinction shared by few of the more famous districts of the Southwest. Let us report briefly what is known today of the evidence left behind by prehistoric hunters who visited this beautiful valley in centuries gone by.

By far the oldest inhabitants or visitors of the San Luis Valley have been, without contest, the Folsom people who lived between 10,000 and 20,000 years ago, according to the estimates of different scientists. Who were they? How did they look? We do not know, as no skull or other skeletal remains of those early Americans has so far been found or recognized. But some of their old camps have been discovered and the splendid weapon points which they fashioned have been picked up next to the bones of the animals which they hunted for food. In the region beginning at the very foot of the Great Sand Dunes, in the "blow outs," in the neighborhood of San Luis Lake and around the Dry Lakes, in the shadow of Mount Blanca, traces of camps once occupied by the Folsom people can be seen.

While doing reconnaissance work in that district, in the early thirties, we saw, among other things, in depressions between low sand dunes and dry brush, the bleaching and crumbling pieces of large bones of extinct animals and we picked two small fragments of stone points of Folsom type. But a torrential thunder shower once, and another time a violent and persistent sand storm interrupted our exploration and chased us out of this inhospitable section. Circumstances led us to other and distant fields so that we did not return, in spite of the desire to continue our research, until ten years later. This past summer, we found the country so swampy and partly flooded that it was materially impossible to come close to the old sites which promised valuable finds.

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But the large fragments of fossilized bones of a big buffalo and of some extinct species of "elephas," exhibited by Mr. Jack Nelson, at Monte Vista, together with beautiful Folsom points collected by him and his friends, Mr. Gene Sutherland and Mr. A. L. Pearsall, and others showed that they had been successful in their patient search for evidence of the presence in prehistoric times of the Folsom people in the San Luis Valley. The extensive site which has been explored by the local archaeologists is located immediately outside of the limits of the National Monument of the Great Sand Dunes. In 1941, Dr. C. T. Hurst, of Gunnison, reported on his excavation of a Folsom site in the same district and the various finds made there, in a blow out, of fine typical points together with other remains in close association with bones of a large buffalo, "Bison Taylori," of the same species as those found at the original site of Folsom, east of Raton, in New Mexico.

There can be no doubt then of the existence of ancient camps of buffalo hunters, identified with the makers of the beautiful Folsom points, in the southeast portion of the San Luis Valley, some time 10,000 or more years ago. This is a mark of distinction for this part of Southern Colorado shared with other sections of Eastern Colorado and New Mexico.

It is impossible in the present state of our knowledge to give a complete and accurate account of the many tribes which for centuries have occupied or visited the San Luis Valley in quest of the game and fowl always abundant in the region. But, judging by the numerous archaeological sites, frequently extensive and rich in artifacts, one feels certain that this region was a favored hunting ground of many Indians of various origins, who lived there or seasonally were attracted by the abundance of wild animal life. Our several reconnaissance trips supplemented by the zealous work of local archaeologists, have filled our survey map with the sites of Indian camps, work shops, rock shelters, etc. We must admit that the upper or narrow northern section of the valley is still a blank on our map. But this is not the case for the rest of this territory.

Thus, in the northwest district, centering around Saguache and up towards Cochetopa Pass, thanks to the indefatigable efforts of Mrs. W. F. Boyd, we have been able to record some fifty sites and there are likely many more. In the southeastern district, around the Great Sand Dunes and the Dry Lakes, we have done more personal work and together with several supplementary sites reported by Mr. Jack Nelson, we know of some twenty-five sites distributed between La Garita Station and Antelope Springs in the north and Highway U. S. 160 between Alamosa and Blanca

in the south. The southern section of this vast area comprises the Upper Rio Grande Valley, divided for convenience sake, into two districts. The first comprises the section mostly south of Monte Vista but for three sites reported by Nelson. In all we have seventeen sites in this western subdivision, three of them with abundant petroglyphs. The eastern subdivision, located south and southeast of Alamosa, on both sides of the Rio Grande, we started exploring as early as 1933, but much more extensively during the summer of 1942 by means of several reconnaissance trips under the kind guidance of Mr. C. C. Wortman of Alamosa, and later of Mr. A. L. Pearsall and Mr. Gene Sutherland, both of Monte Vista. Altogether we have recorded twenty sites in that region, and some of these are complex sites comprising camp sites, rock shelters, stone enclosures and petroglyphs.

This would suffice to explain why this region is of great interest to the archaeologist and also why we know that through the centuries the San Luis and Upper Rio Grande Valleys witnessed the constant activities of Indian hunters.

These many archaeological sites which we have visited, and described in our reports, are not all of the same age nor have they been occupied by the same tribes. The numerous camp sites, some of them extensive and rich in artifacts, may have been inhabited for a long time or repeatedly in certain seasons. Different tribes may have successively stayed on the same spots because of their proximity to water, or to good hunting ground, or because sheltered from view or from the prevailing winds. It is difficult to date a camp site over which one can collect a variety of stone artifacts and weapon points not always distinctive. In general they look much like those found on hundreds of camp sites all over the High Western Plains and they were probably made by Indians sharing the same type of culture.

But some of the sites of the San Luis Valley are different. Thus, a short distance south of Saguache on a long volcanic spur there are many stone circles, most of them crowded along the northern edge. If they served as foundations for small circular dwellings they did not provide much comfort. The ground between them is littered with sharp blocks of lava between which cactus grows and rattlesnakes crawl. Thousands of mosquitoes and millions of gnats, due to the swampy condition of the surrounding valley, render life miserable. But from this rocky promontory one enjoys a marvelous view of the San Luis Valley towards the Sangre de Cristo range and the Sand Dunes to the southeast, and this may have motivated the selection of this site. I am informed that several other sites with circular and rectangular stone enclosures of the same kind exist in the region toward Coche-

topa Pass and so these primitive constructions would probably have been erected by Indians coming from the northwest and having built and occupied this advance post on the western edge of the San Luis Valley.

But, last summer, we visited several other sites with similar stone circles roughly built and located on points of vantage in places along the east side of the Rio Grande, both in the extreme southern part of Colorado and the most northern of New Mexico. Others were also seen on the east side of the San Antonio River, south of the Colorado-New Mexico state line, in Carson National Forest. These primitive rock constructions, usually circular or horse-shoe shaped, were always in excellent position to serve as observation posts or lookouts and could conceivably be used also for defense purpose. It may be that they were all built by the same Indians who, being intruders in the San Luis Valley and wishing to take advantage of its abundant game, had to protect themselves against the natives who resented their intrusions.

This speculation is not improbable as we have material proof of such frequent seasonal incursions by the Pueblo Indians, normally peaceful farmers in the Middle Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico. At various periods they seem to have moved northward into southern Colorado, following preferably the east side of the river, advancing through the Dry Lakes district up to the Great Sand Dunes. In and around small volcanic rock shelters, and on numerous camp sites of that region we have picked up fragments of Pueblo pottery which have been identified and dated by Dr. Henry P. Mera, the expert Santa Fe ceramist. These potsherds represent a variety of wares dating from the eleventh century to modern times and made by Indians living either around Taos, or down the Rio Grande Valley and around the Pajarito Plateau. This shows with evidence the renown of the San Luis Valley for the abundance of its game and the attraction it exercised for centuries over distant tribes.

But this is further proved by the discovery this past summer of an older culture which we named the Upper Rio Grande culture because of its principal grouping, but which extends across the Colorado border northward as far as the Great Sand Dunes, and so belongs also to the San Luis Valley proper. These ancient Indians seem to have been nomadic hunters, apparently coming from the south, fashioning rough artifacts, almost exclusively made of dark basaltic material, difficult to shape by the percussion flaking method. They made primitive-looking and unstandardized weapon points, varying in shapes and sizes, but more often with a fairly large and somewhat squarish stem, with a concave or notched base, and the upper part or body of the point being usually with

convex sides and seldom ending in a really sharp tip. They frequently are asymmetrical and, strangely enough for such coarse points, the edges of the stem and even in certain cases the base line, are smoothed as if ground, a character which they have in common with the more skilfully shaped Folsom and Yuma points.

We named these newly-known points the "Rio Grande Points." They are found on large camp sites, abundant work shops, and around small rock shelters, on both east and west sides of the Rio Grande, in the Dry Lakes district and up to the Great Sand Dunes to the north. They have been reported by Dr. Henry P. Mera as far south as Las Cruces, west to Chaco Cañon, and east to Newkirk, in New Mexico. The culture which produced these rough weapon points did not seem to have known the art of pottery making and the artifacts associated with it virtually never display any of the finer pressure flaking frequently seen on Pueblo stone artifacts.

The age of the Upper Rio Grande culture was clearly established by A. L. Pearsall and Gene Sutherland by excavation of a small rock shelter east of the river and south of the upper state bridge. I visited their diggings in August, 1942, and observed that they had exposed a layer, varying between 60 and 75 cm. in depth, containing remains of Pueblo culture, stone flakes and implements, arrowheads, typical potsherds of the Bandelier Black-on-Gray and Cundiyo Indented types, as well as bones of deer, antelope, and smaller game. Beneath this upper deposit, there was a thin sterile level of yellowish dirt, some 10 cm. in thickness, and marking a time when no one lived there. Then, below this, was another layer, 40 to 50 cm. thick, in which were found charcoal in small bits, oval rubbing stones, points, scrapers and flakes of black basalt, a fragment of pebbly obsidian, bones of deer and bison as well as fragments of others, but absolutely no pottery. This lower layer represents remains of our Upper Rio Grande Culture and since it is beneath both a sterile level marking temporary abandonment of the site, and a thicker deposit of Pueblo material below the surface dirt, we have there the concrete evidence that the makers of the Rio Grande points obviously preceded the Pueblos in that part of the country and probably elsewhere.

Thus we see that the San Luis Valley and the Upper Rio Grande to the south of it have been inhabited and visited at various periods by different tribes since some 10,000 or 15,000 years ago. They were probably occupied for many centuries by some of those prehistoric and as well as more recent Indians as is proved by the many archaeological sites seen there and the abundant and varied finds made over the area by professional and local archaeologists and amateurs.

Personal Recollections of Early Denver*

JOSEPH EMERSON SMITH

I saw with mingled feelings, young as I was, the demolition of Old Lige's little shack on the otherwise vacant corner of Sixteenth and Lawrence streets. Old Lige was a grizzle-haired, lame, and kindly Negro who supported himself by odd jobs and had an unique way of augmenting his uncertain income which today we would call "graft." When he was out of a job this grinning old man in his rags and tatters would hip-hop up and down the streets with a large bell. When he encountered a youngster, as he once came upon me while I, carrying a bag of groceries from Birks Cornforth's grocery, was serenely going along the familiar way home, he would violently ring the bell and, grasping the arm of the child, demand, "Wheah yo' gwine? Wha' yo' name?"

Ascertaining name and address from the child, confused by the ding-dong din, he would conduct his prisoner home and, ringing his bell, claim the little one had been lost. Any reward, from the two-bits he expected to the four bits he hoped for, was received with a caper, a flourish, and ringing of the big bell. However, in justice, it must be said that occasionally he did rescue a lost and bewildered youngster.

Where Old Lige's house stood, Daniels & Fisher built their dry goods store, moving from Larimer street "out into the sticks" amid dire predictions that customers would be scarce. This was before Tabor built, two blocks to the east, his opera house which was opened in September, 1881.

Tabor's opera house started the building boom up Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets away from Larimer Street, then the principal business thoroughfare, as it had been for years. He intended to build at Twentieth and Lawrence streets, where afterwards Parson Tom Uzzell erected his Peoples Tabernacle, but the owner of the property hiked the price out of all reason when he heard the "Midas from Leadville" was the prospective purchaser. This time Tabor refused to be stung. But few believed Larimer Street's sovereignty would be imperiled, especially since Governor Evans built Denver's first skyscraper, the eight-story Railroad building, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth on Larimer, a wonder in its day and which, as it neared completion, furnished us another wonder when a lad in his early teens fell from the roof, landed on the many wires carried by the telephone poles, bounced up and down on the wires, and landed on the back of a mule unharmed. The site

*Continued from the previous issue and concluded in this.—Ed.

of the Railroad building was one of crime in the earliest days. There stood Ed Jump's Criterion Hall, resort of desperadoes. Afterwards it was the Mozart Hall, billiard room and saloon operated by the picaresque "Count" Henri Murat, who claimed to be the nephew of Napoleon's King of Naples, and who gained national fame when he shaved Horace Greeley during the visit here of the illustrious editor of the *New York Tribune* in June, 1859, charging him one dollar—not five, as the story goes.

The Windsor Hotel, built by the Denver Mansions Company, an English corporation, and one of the fine hotels of America when it was opened in June, 1880, stands at Eighteenth and Larimer. Between 1880 and 1886, the City Hall, County Court House, Union Depot, the St. James, Markham, and Albany hotels, the Cheesman and Barclay blocks and the Colorado National Bank—the pink stone building at Seventeenth and Larimer, now a memory—in addition to really imposing churches and school buildings were built, and in 1885 work started on the Federal building at Sixteenth and Arapahoe, and the state capitol on the bluffs overlooking the old Smoky Hill stage route into Denver. At the close of 1887, Denver's population was estimated at 96,000—an increase of close to 300 per cent in seven years! Construction for that year amounted to \$4,007,050, and real estate sales totaled \$29,176,752.79. Denver had more millionaires than any other city between the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast.

The symphony of a city's destiny swept forward to its crescendo. And the men and women, the Fifty-eighters and Fiftyniners, who had dreamed magnificently for their city, the frontier post they had planted and nurtured on barren and hostile soil, were still here to see their dreams come true. Not so erect or bright-eyed now, nevertheless they felt a resurgence of youth as they witnessed their prophecies taking form and substance. Always they had thought in terms of the future, so there was little sentiment when historic beginnings were obliterated forever for fine new structures. The past, heroic though it appears now, was too recent then to be hallowed in nostalgic memories.

William and George Clayton built at Fifteenth and Larimer their Granite building on the site of the log cabin of the founder of Denver City, General William Larimer. This was his home and then the home of that remarkable newspaper man, A. O. McGrew, who walked every step of the way from the Missouri River trundling across the plains a wheelbarrow holding all his possessions. After working on the *Rocky Mountain News*, he returned East and became city editor of the *New York News*.

The frame building in which Major Jacob Downing had his law and real estate office at Seventeenth and Larimer was torn

down to make room for the handsome pressed-brick block erected by Walter S. Cheesman. Mayor Amos Steck's home at Seventeenth and Curtis disappeared for the Ernest and Cranmer Building, and in the same block at Sixteenth Street the frame house, white with green shutters, that Richard Whitsitt built in 1860, and which was so fine it caused envy and admiration intermingled, was removed for the brick Cass and Graham Building. For several years Dr. O. D. Cass had owned the Whitsitt residence. The small Seventeenth Street Presbyterian church, which had been converted into a livery stable with a wooden ramp from the street, was razed for the stately Equitable Building.

In front of this church one rainy day the genial Jephtha Sears, lawyer and courtly gentleman, wit and bon vivant, invited trouble in his rescue of an elderly maiden in distress. Seventeenth Street was a sea of mud, and standing on the corner where afterward the many bay-windowed Albany Hotel was to go up was the primly-bonneted, modestly-bustled spinster holding a parasol and peering apprehensively at the chocolate-colored quagmire. Along came Jephtha, his Congress gaiters squirting water, his coat damp, and felt hat limp, but warmed within by sundry hot toddies, and in love with the overcast world. Yielding to his characteristic gallantry he scooped up the startled lady directly under the bustle and threw her across his broad shoulder. Without a word he waded across the street.

Her scream was followed by an attack with the parasol on his person, punctuated by, "You cad! You unspeakable ruffian! How dare you? Put me down instantly! Oh, if I were a man! Oh, you, you—"

Mr. Sears continued across. One hand was thudding him with the collapsed parasol on his unflinching chest; the other hand was smacking him on the cheek. When he reached the board walk his pick-a-back passenger was kicking him in the hips and her now hysterical remarks were delighting the rapidly gathering group of pedestrians. A rotund gentleman hailed Jephtha with a shout, "Oh, you Lochinvar!" Silent, paying no attention, without expression, Mr. Sears wheeled as he reached the sidewalk, executing a dignified right-about face, and plodded squashily back across, depositing the spinster on the spot where he had picked her up. Then, alone, he retraced his muddy passage while the crowd whooped and the lady glared from across the street.

The dry goods merchant, J. Jay Joslin, at Sixteenth and Curtis streets, during inclement weather kept a porter in hip-length rubber boots busy laying long wide planks so pedestrians could pass over the mud. He lifted the boards and held them upright

for the passage of street cars. Joslin profited richly by this constructive good-will advertising. Not until 1892 did Denver begin paving the downtown streets with asphalt.

The telephone came in 1879. Denver had the distinction of having the fourth exchange in the entire United States. By 1884 the company had approximately 2,000 miles of wire. The cross bars of the tall telephone poles lining the streets carried so many wires, shadows striped the sidewalks at noonday and fatalities when linemen were repairing wires were not uncommon.

The newspapers announced as "approaching the miraculous" the discovery by Thomas A. Edison of the incandescent electric light, so we were prepared for the miracle when, April 21, 1883, the just-organized Colorado-Edison Electric Light Company placed on display in a vacant store room on Curtis street a 16-candle power incandescent light, Denver's first. It hung from a wire, a vibrant if tiny "controlled flame," as it was described, "without visible means of origination or support," and was protected by a stout wooden railing, which wasn't necessary as there was a healthy fear in every individual in the crowds that flocked to see "the wonder of the age" that even casual contact with the flaming filament meant instant annihilation from the lethal current.

Electricity had come to supplant gas. Soon the residence sections were no longer dark at night. We had lighthouses on the prairies! At widely separated localities eight 150-foot high iron towers were erected. At the top were suspended huge electric arc lights—electric light formed by the passage of voltaic current between two carbon points, as Webster defines it—and the large bright metal reflectors threw the light a considerable distance. Each morning the lighthouse tender drew up in his one-horse cart, placed his ladder against one of the four black-painted smooth iron poles, let us call them, that towered to a gradual convergence at the top platform, climbed to a large iron bucket secured on a hook, entered it, and drew himself by cable to the top, where he replaced the thick, used carbons with fresh ones. The old carbons, shattered in the fall to the ground, took the place of chalk and it was a favorite pastime of children to use them on fences and sidewalks, scrawling messages or love notes in black letters, and drawing crude pictures, until protests from property owners caused the lighthouse tenders to carry canvas bags in which to place the old carbons.

Carriages lined the streets, coachmen dozed on the box, or stood in trim uniforms waiting while Madam shopped. Merchants of the larger establishments stood at the entrance, in "morning

coats," striped gray trousers, patent leather needle-pointed shoes, wing collars, Prince de Joinville ties, waxed mustache, and greeted customers with a bow and a smile, escorting them to the department where they wished to shop. It was a leisurely, polite, mellow age in spite of the feverish construction in progress in all sections of the Queen City of the Plains.

Horses were "anchored" by heavy iron weights attached by leather ropes to the bridle, or hitched by a strap to iron or stone hitching posts at the edge of the sidewalk. Everywhere you saw bicycles, the early ones with the high wheel in front and a pygmy wheel at the rear, for "safeties" had not yet appeared. Members of wheel clubs went on long excursions, as far as thirty miles or more, on Sundays. The Denver Wheel Club had its own comfortable club house on California Street facing St. Mary's Academy for girls, where the Home Public Market now stands.

Jefferson Randolph Smith, known over the nation as "Soapy" Smith, and his gang, a score of confidence men, operated free, wide, and handsome on the strangers passing through the Union Depot gates. Since 1881, "Soapy" had a gentleman's agreement with the early authorities and later with the Fire and Police Board not to rob or molest the citizens of Denver; but, short of serious injury or murder of the visitor, he could conduct his "profession" unhampered by too strict scrutiny of the law. He organized the "bandit barbers" of lower Seventeenth street, who lured in the stranger by signs advertising a shave and haircut for 25 cents, then, while the customer's eyes were covered by the hot towel, the signs were turned so the reverse side read \$1. With a razor at his throat the customer didn't protest. If he displayed a fat wallet the barber deftly snipped an inverted V at the neck hairline and as he walked out one of Soapy's con men accosted and took him in tow for another and more costly trimming.

Who that ever saw him, could forget Soapy, brown-haired, Vandyke-bearded, of voice of silvery persuasiveness, standing under a kerosene torch at his portable stand and table on a corner at Larimer or Market Street, inviting the always present crowd to invest a dollar on a little blue paper-covered square of soap in which, while he was talking, he wrapped in full view of eager eyes a \$20 bill. Avidly the crowd watched as he kept wrapping several of these squares and never let their eyes stray from a particular square when he placed it on the table. But Soapy's dexterity in digital manipulation never failed to produce for the purchaser's dollar only a plain unadorned two cents' worth of unscented soap!

So well organized and profitable was the business, Soapy maintained for years headquarters on the second floor of the three-

story brick building that stands on the corner of Seventeenth and Larimer streets. Here were his "props" for assuming various roles for fleecing prosperous victims, furnishing a severely dignified atmosphere when he played the big business man, a financier handling millions for investment, or other character to fit the crime. He was a consummate, convincing actor.

We newspaper men, if not downright fond of, were intrigued by him. We saw him on Christmas mornings presenting dressed turkeys to a long line of hundreds of the very poor at Seventeenth and Market, a wholesale commission house keeping open to supply the big birds. Parson Tom Uzzell told me how Soapy at one o'clock on a morning a few days before Christmas, rang his bell and when the Parson opened the door, shivering in his red flannel night robe, emptied his pockets of \$5,500 and dumped the gold and greenbacks in the hall. He had won it at faro at Ed Chase's Arcade gambling house and, reading in the newspapers that the good Parson was pleading for funds to give his annual Christmas dinner for the poor at the Peoples Tabernacle, had hurried to donate it before temptation came to continue in the game until he "broke the bank."

The Parson returned, in a fashion, the compliment by having Soapy preach a sermon at the Tabernacle—and a fine, convincing sermon it was on the text, "Look not upon evil." It may be of interest to know that I was the last newsman to interview Smith before he went to Alaska at the start of the gold rush in 1898, and to his death at Skagway a year later, when he tried to crash the meeting of outraged citizens called to take action to drive him and his gang out of town. It took our Populist Governor Davis H. Waite, who vowed to clean up Denver, to dethrone Soapy. "Blood to the Bridles" Waite called out the militia and the Chaffee Light Artillery with its big brass Napoleons and rapid fire Gatling guns to storm the City Hall and throw out the Fire and Police Board which defied his order that the three members resign. To the support of his friends, Soapy organized a small army and with a quantity of dynamite bombs stationed his men on the roof with instructions to blow the soldiers to kingdom come at the first move to fire on the Hall. Waite withdrew the troops at the plea of a committee of prominent citizens that he take the dispute to the state supreme court. He was held by that tribunal to be within his rights and shortly after the siege of City Hall that snowy day in March, 1894, his appointees took office and Jefferson Randolph Smith's reign as King of the Underworld was ended. For thirteen years he had done just about whatever he pleased so long as he refrained from troubling the home folk.

There can be no contradiction of the statement that no other city in this broad land of ours held within its limits as many unusual, strange, gifted, romantic characters playing their parts in the drama and the comedy of the Denver of half a century and more ago. Time permits the mention of but a few; it would take a thick volume to enumerate and tell of them all. There was Colonel John M. Chivington, the first presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal church, who liked to look on at the games and partake of the refreshments served in the gambling rooms and who led the 500 men of the First Colorado Volunteers as the expeditionary force to fall on the rear of the Confederate Army in Apache Canon, New Mexico, and destroy its supplies and transportation facilities. The invading Confederates were marching to seize the West's gold mines for Jefferson Davis. They had already captured Santa Fe and Albuquerque and defeated the small garrisons of Federal soldiers when Governor Gilpin's infantrymen after forced marches met them at La Glorieta. Chivington's daring exploit brought a flag of truce and the invaders retreated back into Texas never again to threaten the West. And it was Chivington, you will remember, who led the Colorado troops at the Sand Creek massacre, two years later, wiping out a large camp of surprised redskins.

"Father" John Lewis Dyer, first circuit rider in the mountains, the famed "snowshoe itinerant," and father of young Judge Elias Dyer who on the morning of July 3, 1875, was shot dead in his court room at Granite, Chaffee County, by prisoners charged with lawlessness and acts of terrorism, was chaplain of the Senate when the English-built Barelay Block across from the Windsor Hotel was the State capitol building in the '80s. In the Federal building at Sixteenth and Arapahoe, built on lots conveyed to the Government by Tabor, and which had been occupied by the residence of George W. McClure and previously by the log cabin of Isador Badolet, Judge Moses Hallett, around whom a thousand stories pungent with his witticisms and idiosyncrasies center and are still told by oldsters of the bar with undiminished relish, presided over the United States Circuit and District courts.

And known by every one, was "Potato" Clark, big, boisterous, gray-headed, rolling-gaited Rufus Clark who went to Governor Evans, founder of the University of Denver—as he had founded Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, the town bearing his illustrious name—with a deed for eighty acres for the site of the University and \$500 in cash to "start it a-go-in'." Potato was a reformed scalawag, as he himself termed it, and he gloried in telling how he got religion. As a youth he was on a New England whaling ship and after years of adventure

taking him as far south as around the Horn and north to the Arctic, with the South Sea islands and other then little known parts of the land and sea thrown in for good measure, he returned home so "steeped in sin, in prodigious profanity and the curse o' drink," as he said, his folks "shrunken away as from a leper." So in 1859 he came to Denver and homesteaded 160 acres at what is now Overland Park. In 1867 his crop of potatoes is said to have sold for \$30,000, hence the sobriquet.

Drinking and carousing, dancing the sailor's hornpipe on the streets and singing chanteys in a voice that boomed like thunder, he was shunned by the respectable, followed by the disreputable—of whom there were many in the early days—and was never so far gone as to forget how to use his mighty sledge hammer fists when anything displeased him. In the summer of 1873 the noted evangelist, Rev. E. P. Hammond, held a great revival in Denver. Very much "under the influence," Potato Clark stumbled into the meeting and was conducted at his truculent command to the front bench where room was quickly made for him, directly under the evangelist's fiery eye. Against the befuddled Potato the preacher thundered, holding him up as an example of what "the demon rum can do to a man created in the image of his Maker!"

"Hear! Hear!" shouted Potato.

The congregation loudly hissed. This was something so new in his experience with crowds always heretofore amused by his antics, that the sinner subsided in perplexity. He began to take notice of what Rev. Mr. Hammond was saying about him and as gradually his head cleared, he endorsed by affirmative nods and applause the evangelist's exhortation. When the time came, he was the first to rise and confess his sins, and in the swelling chorus of "Amen, brother!" and "Praise the Lord!" he dedicated himself henceforth to godliness.

It took courage to become a one-man Salvation Army, but Potato did it. The record shows he was the first Salvation Army here when the following day as the sun was poised over the peaks of the Great Divide for a glory-minute adieu, he walked the streets singing "Rock of Ages, cleft for me," and on corners preached a rough and ready sermon, announcing his reformation and telling how sweet to the sinful soul was the draught of the pure cold water of salvation. No one believed him; roars of laughter interrupted his earnest avowal; they thought Old Potato was putting on another act in partnership with John Barleycorn. He persevered, keeping tightly clenched the ever-ready fists in his trousers pockets, tongue lashing his erstwhile companions until they slunk away wondering.

In spite of predictions that he would backslide, he kept the pledge, devoted himself to farming, and became the largest property owner in Arapahoe County, paying taxes on 4,500 separate pieces of property, the listings occupying twelve solid pages in the assessor's book. In 1886 he built and endowed the Rufus Clark and Wife Theological Training School at Shangay Sherbro, Africa, 60 miles from Freetown, on the west coast. The three-story structure of granite was dedicated in 1887 with 213 students in attendance, training to become missionaries to the heathen blacks in the African jungles. And the rest of his life Potato Clark was a trustee of the University of Denver. His benefactions were many and large.

When you have lived a long, long time in a city you love, there come days when you walk with ghosts. You are passing a building that, on a street where the years have brought many changes, looms unchanged and as it was in your youth, and suddenly in the entrance a form that long has been dust appears and a voice long silent greets you and you walk along with the friend, you two lost in the crowd, oblivious of everything, living again a buried day. And so it is as I pass the Boston building and see, leaning against the pink stone wall, Colonel John Morrissey and hear him say, "Hey, Smithy, me lad! Come on, now, an' tell me if I'm right in the bet I've made with meself on the time o' day." And just as in the days of nearly half a century ago, I go to the shabby big Irishman with the kindly blue eyes and at his bidding, as he turns his head and the veined lids curtain his eyes, I take from his threadbare vest pocket the finest watch in all the West!

"I bet with meself its three-thirty-five. If I'm right, we'll go into the Boston bar an' have whatever ye fancy in a drink or a smoke," he continues, with averted eyes as I open the three gold covers, the first thick for protection, the second half as thick, and the third very thin, these two, it is evident, to keep out the most minute particle of dust.

That big "turnip" must have weighed between two and three pounds, and the chain, formed of gold nuggets fully as much again, but the chain many months since had changed ownership when pride of possession gave way to the pangs of hunger. The watch, which had been specially made to his specifications in Geneva, Switzerland, cost \$1,500. Under the glass was not only the big round porcelain face bearing the hour numerals and hands, hour, minute, and second, in gold, but a miniature barometer foretelling changes in weather, a thermometer, and a calendar in colors, set in the face, showing the month and day. A little lever gadget on the side, near the winding stem, when

pressed produced plainly heard silvery chimes telling the hour and quarter hour: for example, three-thirty would be denoted by three strokes of the concealed gong, then a brief interval and three strokes, followed by another interval and three strokes. However, there was no way of ascertaining by the chimes the exact time, to the minute, between quarter hours.

Morrissey had no "learning"; he could neither read nor write and, after long practice, could barely sign his name. Never able to master figures, the Roman numerals on his watch face remained a mystery to him. But this he never admitted. Desiring the time, he would call a friend and go through the subterfuge of a "bet with meself." As he never guessed correctly, he was safe, with penniless pockets, in promising refreshment or a cigar if he won his "bet" by naming the hour and minute. Every newspaper man knew him and gravely obliged in the pathetic little game. We handled the enormous timepiece with respect if not with awe, knowing that in another sense it was one of, if not the most, expensive watches in the country, for it had cost the colonel his fortune.

In the center of the stem was a piston, its head distinguished by a chip diamond. A pressure upon the diamond and lo, you held a stop-watch to time the horses to a fraction of a second! Morrissey shied away from women, but gave free rein to gambling, horse racing and champagne. Offsetting this was his open-handed generosity. In tailored black and white check sports suit, wide-brim tan sombrero, binoculars in black leather case hanging by a strap over a shoulder, magnificent watch in his hand, he was a familiar figure at famous tracks the country over. His betting losses were tremendous.

Mines, as they used to say "peter out" and Morrissey's million or so in time disappeared, leaving no trace except his watch. Too late, but equipped as no other prospector in the long history of mining, he started looking for new wealth. In the back of that astonishing watch, between the outer and inner covers were a detachable compass and a superfine magnifying glass for use in examining ore rock. But it was of no avail. His nugget chain finally went and then he gently "mooched" from acquaintances and a few loyal friends on the streets. And then one day his watch went; report had it, to a pawnbroker. The colonel was no longer a familiar figure downtown. In obscurity he died not long afterward.

On the stage of Denver in the '80s were magicians who pulled out from under their hats dream-rabbits that hopped into amazing changes as they became railroads, impressive business blocks,

beautiful hotels and churches, and restaurants famed the country over! Sometimes, at first, the dream rabbits didn't function as smoothly as expected. Witness our first electric street railway.

Governor John Evans, John J. Riethman, M. J. McNamara, Junius F. Brown, William N. Byers, F. A. Keener, Dr. W. F. McClelland, B. P. Brasher, Cyrus W. Fisher, Rodney Curtis, Scott J. Anthony, W. B. Rundle, and Roger W. Woodbury—all big names as magic-builders!—February 5, 1885, incorporated the Denver Electric and Cable Railway Company. Governor Evans was interested in the experiments of Professor Sidney H. Short with a trolley electric car on the campus of the University of Denver.

The last day of July, 1886, Professor Short's electric street car—one of the very first in the world—ran on 3,000 feet of track beginning near the Evans block, up Fifteenth street, to the wonderment of crowded sidewalks. The wire charged with the electric current was underground and the trolley extended down to it through an iron slot between the rails. Everything went nicely until the first rainy day. The electricity went haywire, spreading from the wire and charging the iron slot and rails. I count it as one of the most laughable and at the same time thrilling experiences of my life that I witnessed what happened.

A mule, hitched to an express wagon, put its hoofs on the slot. At once that mule gave a shriek heard for blocks and jumped what appeared to be ten feet up in the air. Down it came, and again it jumped. The third jump was forward and, with lashing hoofs, it sped up the street away from the track, and the express wagon jumped after. Traffic deserted Fifteenth street for hours. But fortunately, then as now, Denver had few, very few, rainy days, so the first electric line continued operating and by the beginning of 1887 three-and-a-half miles of track had been constructed and five cars were in use. However, those thin little rails and slot would occasionally become charged, and in the spring of 1888 the company prepared plans for a series of cable lines. For some time cable cars had been operating here, horse-drawn cars were still in use, and a steam railroad, similar to Baron von Richthofen's Circle Road, starting at the foot of Fifteenth street at Platte street, served North Denver, puffing its way as far as Berkeley and Rocky Mountain lakes. Denver was expanding so rapidly, its street transportation facilities were overcrowded at going-to and returning-from work hours. The census of 1890 gave us a population of 106,713, a gain of 71,084 in ten years over the previous census of 35,629, in 1880!

The overhead trolley solved the problem, and the company in 1889 decided to build electric lines; so, Christmas day that year

saw the first trolley car run on Broadway. From this came our Tramway system of today.

Already our skyline was impressive, and those first grand buildings are still among our best. Now the residence section was again to be invaded by a skyscraper, the Brown Palace Hotel, on the board-fence triangular plot where I remember seeing Henry C. Brown milking his brindle cow, at Broadway and Seventeenth. Slim, little, blue-eyed, soft-spoken Brown was popular with newspaper men for he was not only our friend but had once owned the celebrated *Denver Tribune* where worked F. J. V. Skiff, \$15 a week reporter here, afterwards the director-general of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893; and Eugene Field, its managing editor; Bill Nye, the humorist; Otto Rothacker, and other famous journalists. When Brown owned it, the *Tribune* was published in his building, the first brick structure erected on Sixteenth street, and still standing little changed despite the years, at the intersection of Market street. It is now the Metropolitan Hotel. When Brown built it in 1867, his bank was in the front, the editorial offices in the rear of the first floor, and the presses of the *Tribune* in the basement.

Shortly after young Brown came to Denver and built his carpenter shop on the bank of Cherry Creek he pre-empted 160 acres to the east of town, and, loading his wheelbarrow with materials and tools, trundled it after work in the long summer evenings to where he was building unassisted his pre-emption house, required by law, at what is now the intersection of Twelfth Avenue and Sherman streets. He was working on the roof one brilliant moonlight night in 1862 when Colonel Dick Whitsitt, secretary of the Denver Town Company, and a duelist who had already shown his ability to pot his man, rode up and angrily demanded an explanation.

"This is land belonging to the town company, and you are trespassing," he said. "I'm giving you notice now, to get off, and take that shack with you."

Brown leisurely descended the ladder, picked out of his tool chest a keen-edged hatchet and came unhurriedly to the horseman.

"I'm giving you just twenty-four hours to get off—"

"I have filed on this land in the United States land office," interrupted the carpenter, "and everything is in order. The records show no owner."

Whitsitt used vigorous language, ending with, "If you're not off here at this time tomorrow, I'll see that you're carried off!"

Brown laid the edge of the hatchet against Whitsitt's knee, saying quietly, "If *you're* not off my land before I count three, I'll

cut your leg off, and if you come here again, I'll not wait to count three. Git! One—two—"

Whitsitt "got." Though he shouted back a ringing challenge, he did not re-appear and in time Brown finished his house on what was to be called Capitol Hill. The 160 acres cost him just \$200, at \$1.25 the acre, the price he paid the government. The transaction made him a millionaire. In 1864 he moved his small pre-emption house to what is now Seventeenth and Broadway, a part of his land, and lived in it until 1880 when he erected the two-story brick mansion afterward the home of Mrs. Augusta Tabor. By the gift of ten acres to the Territory for the site of a capitol building, Brown made sure of the removal of the Territorial capital from Golden to Denver in 1867. He gave an option on his cow pasture to William H. Bush, manager of the Windsor Hotel, and James Duff, manager of the English company owning the Windsor. They planned to build a great hotel with English capital, but after the massive foundation of granite was completed funds ceased coming from London. For years the triangle stood in front of Professor Joseph Brinker's private school, now the Navarre cafe, and to which wealthy parents in the mining towns sent their daughters for a "fashionable education," each summer filled with the rain water that flooded down from the bluffs before they were graded and streets run through east of Broadway. A stagnant deep pool in warm weather, it afforded the young ladies a skating pond under the watchful eyes of Mrs. Brinker in the winter.

In 1889, Brown decided he, himself, would build the finest hotel between Chicago and the Pacific Coast. Opened in September, 1892, at a cost of \$1,600,000, he lost it within a few years, a result of the panic of 1893 following the demonetization of silver.

John Elitch came from California and started Elitch's, afterwards the far-famed Tortoni restaurant. Every night a bread line of the poor formed in the alley at the kitchen door. In clean paper plates and bags, untouched food left on the tables of guests was handed them and from that regal restaurant, the like of which Denver will never see again, for, in the then plentitude of wildlife and absence of game laws, hunters kept it supplied with wild game and fowl, the indigent old men and women, the halt and the lame, and ill-clad mothers, were the best fed unfortunates, perhaps, in the country. They took away at the same hour each night, ten o'clock, royally tender slices of roast beef, portions of filets Mignon with sauce Bearnaise, fried oysters, filets of sole—the genuine sole in those days—terrapin from Chesapeake Bay, prairie chicken, duck, quail, stuffed squab, chicken, turkey, guinea fowl breasts, sage hen, venison, elk, and bear steaks, salads, desserts,

and broken pieces of the crusty, light, flavorsome long French loaves. To the oldsters also went bottles in which remained some of the contents.

I know, for when I was a reporter on the *Republican*, published in the Gottesleben building, at the end of the alley on Sixteenth street, between Arapahoe and Lawrence, and next door to the restaurant, I saw from the windows of the city room night after night many an old man greedily draining a bottle of Pommery or Veuve Cliquot, a long-necked brown bottle of Rhenish wine, or smacking his lips over the last trickle of sparkling Burgundy.

The handsome, curly-haired, foreign-looking Elitch boasted that everything the market afforded could be found in his pantries. One evening, when the restaurant was filled near to capacity, two cowboys in the easy garb of the cattle country, and obviously "well organized," zig-zagged their way over the marble tile floor to a "deuce"—a table for two—against the mirrored wall. One of the French waiters, bowing, presented a menu. The cowboys blinked at the items, all in French. Disgustedly they threw it at the man and one snarled, "Bring us a rattlesnake steak, fella, and be quick about it!"

"Pardon, M'sieu?"

"Rattlesnake, I said, Frogface! That's what we feed on where I come from. Good, strong, fried rattlesnake."

The puzzled waiter repeated the order to the chef. He summoned Elitch, who asked, "Have you any scallops?"

"No, sir, but there is an eel in the icebox."

Eels in the gladsome epoch of the gourmet were a popular dish, sauted and basted with sherry.

"Give 'em two orders of that," Elitch laughed.

When the waiter ceremoniously lifted the cover of the Sheffield silver platter and presented for their inspection the small golden rounds, the flushed cheeks of the cowboys became a sallow white and a stricken look glassed their eyes. As one, they kicked back their chairs and with hands at their mouths raced out of the restaurant while the diners stared.

Even as Elitch's, Tortoni's was the gathering place of the editors and reporters after the morning newspapers, the *News* and *Republican*, had been "put to bed," at 3 a. m. Over cold roast beef, chili sauce, hot French fried potatoes, and steaming pots of coffee, the rivals fraternized and reminisced. Several had worked with Eugene Field, notably dear, genial, courtly F. O. Dickinsheets who had us spellbound with his stories, especially that of the one-man benefit performance Field staged for and by himself and which for two hours kept a crowded house at the Academy of

Music, on Sixteenth between Larimer and Market streets, entranced by extemporaneous burlesquing of famous personages, recitations, imitations of the circus coming to town with sarcastic remarks made by the animals, and side-splitting rhymes on local celebrities. Field put on the show to raise funds to take his family to Chicago where, in 1882, he had been offered a position on the *Chicago News*.

Elitch inspired and helped organize the Denver Athletic Club, which took the old Baptist church at Eighteenth and Curtis streets as its clubhouse and gymnasium, the congregation having erected the larger First Baptist church on Stout Street. He sold his restaurant and, buying the Chilcott ranch, west of the town of Highlands, opened on the rainy Decoration Day of 1891, Elitch's Gardens. Chubby, little, twinkling-eyed Mayor Wolfe Londoner, mounted on a barrel, was in the midst of the dedicatory speech at the closed gate when the too-eager crowd rushed forward, crashed through the gate and upset the mayor. With great difficulty he was rescued from being trampled as the frightened mountain lions, bears, timber wolves, and coyotes in their cages and pits added to the din of shouting crowd and blaring brass band under the leadership of Peter Satriano, by screams, screeches, and howls.

Londoner was one of Denver's most popular citizens of the early days. In the basement of his handsome building housing his large grocery store, on Arapahoe between Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets, he built a "cyclone cellar" for the exclusive use of his close friends and newspaper men, every one of the latter carrying a key to the padlocked room stocked with edibles and drinkables and its own ice chest. During a late and merry session in the cyclone cellar one December night, it was decided with vociferous unanimity to play a joke on the host who, gifted with originality in his advertising, had recently ordered all his delivery wagons repainted, and in gold letters shining against a blue background, was the invitation COME TO SEE US, with a line below, AT WOLFE LONDONER'S.

The friendly, patient night watchman let the roisterers out shortly before midnight. They went to the livery barn where Wolfe kept his horses, "jimmied" the lock, hitched the horses to the wagons, and drove them to McCuen's sign shop where a well-paid painter, aroused from his bed, expertly changed the word US on all the wagons. A sensation rocked Denver the next day when the wagons advertised:

COME TO SEE JESUS
AT WOLFE LONDONER'S

Until the telephones began ringing with questions—some not politely voiced—from all over the city, Wolfe and his drivers were unaware of what had been done.

It was not all play, however, in those days of a city's happy youth. On every side were evidences of capital and labor at work. Black plumes of smoke waved above the tall chimneys of vast sprawling smelters, and when the breeze came from the north-west our nostrils stung with the sharp pungency of chemical fumes. Long trains of box cars, loaded high with ore, rumbled down the mountain canons to feed the alchemizing furnaces, producing from the sparkling rock gold and silver, copper, lead, and zinc. We sensed, and could feel the invisible forces, like the unstoppable sweep of a mighty wind, speeding Destiny.

General William J. Palmer and David C. Dodge were transforming the Denver & Rio Grande from a narrow-gauge to a great broad-gauge railroad, never again to be known as "the baby road." Evans, Moffat, Loveland, Cheesman, Tabor, Mears, Grant, James, and the others of the bold band of builders who turned visions into actualities, were busily laying the foundations for the shining future of the new commonwealth and its capital, the Queen City of the Plains.

Place Names in Colorado (U, V)*

Ula, Custer County ghost town, and the first settlement in the Wet Mountain Valley, was often called Britons' Paradise, because of the many English settlers.¹ The first post office in Custer County, was established here in 1870, with Joseph A. Davis as postmaster. Ula was headquarters for the valley trade for some years, but after mines in the vicinity began to yield it was overshadowed by Rosita and Silver Cliff.² It was intended that the town be named for Chief Ouray of the Utes, but in sending the request to post office officials the name was misspelled, Ula appearing on the application instead of *Ure* (Ouray).³

Una, Garfield County fruit shipping point on the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad, was named by the railroad.⁴ *Una* is a Spanish word meaning "with one accord."

*Prepared by the Colorado Writers' Program, Work Project Administration.

An (*) asterisk indicates that the population figure is from the 1940 census. Unless otherwise credited, all information has been sent to the Colorado Writers' Program.

Incorporation dates are from the *Colorado Year Book, 1939-40*. "Gazetteer of Cities and Towns."

¹Data from Mrs. Georgianna Kettle and Ranger Roy M. Truman, San Isabel National Forest, in 1935, to the State Historical Society.

²*History of Arkansas Valley, Colorado* (O. L. Baskin & Company, Publisher, 1880), 720.

³Kettle and Truman, *op. cit.*

⁴Data from Edna Tawney, Field Staff Writer, in 1939.

UnawEEP, Mesa County Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad station lies in an agricultural and stock-raising section. The post office was established during the latter part of September, 1883.⁵ *UnawEEP*, a Ute Indian word meaning "red canon," was applied by the Utes to the canon which commences at the mouth of Roubideau's Creek and extends almost to the mouth of the Gunnison.⁶

Uncompahgre, Delta County, early name of Delta. *Uncompahgre* is a Ute Indian word, and means "red-water spring."⁷ (See *Delta*.)

Uncompahgre or *Uncompahgre City*, Ouray County, first name of Ouray. (See also *Ouray*.)

Undercliffe (50 population) Pueblo County. In January, 1879, the post office known as Huerfano was changed to Undercliffe.⁸ (See also *Huerfano*.)

Uravan (400 population), Montrose County modern mining community. A previous settlement, known as the Jo Junior Camp, resulting from mining activities of The Standard Chemical Company, occupied the site in 1912. After fifteen years in which large scale mining in this district was dormant, the United States Vanadium Corporation began work and in February, 1936, the town was renamed.⁹ *Uravan* is a combination of the first syllables of uranium and vanadium, minerals occurring with carnotite, a yellow viscous ore. Carnotite was first mined here in 1881, for small amounts of gold found with it. In 1898, after the Smithsonian Institution had found that the ore contained uranium, several tons were shipped by two French scientists, Poulot and Voilleque, to the School of Mines in Paris, where they were delivered to Madam Curie and used by her in experiments that resulted in the extraction of radium. Between 1898 and 1928 ores taken from this region accounted for almost one-half of the world's production of radium.¹⁰

Ute, Mesa County, early name for Grand Junction. (See also *Grand Junction*.)

Ute (30 population), Montrose County post office village, was settled in 1880 by the United States Placer Company; later by the Colorado Copper Company for sawmill purposes, and finally by homesteaders for agricultural purposes. Today farming and stock-

⁵*Denver Tribune*, October 5, 1883.

⁶F. V. Hayden, *Annual Report of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of Colorado and Adjacent Territory*, 1874, 104.

⁷F. V. Hayden, *Ninth Annual Report of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey*, 1875.

⁸*Denver Daily Tribune*, January 31, 1879.

⁹Data from J. J. Foster, *Uravan*, secured and submitted by R. M. Mahoney, United States Vanadium Corporation, *Uravan*, December 26, 1940.

¹⁰*Colorado, A Guide to the Highest State*, 422.

raising are the principal occupations. The settlement was named for the original inhabitants of the region.¹¹

Ute or *Ute City*, Pitkin County, early name of Aspen. (See also *Aspen*.)

Utleyville (14 population), Baca County farming village, was settled by a family named Utley.¹² The post office was established in 1918 or 1919.¹³

Valdez (250 population), Las Animas County coal-mining community, was built around the Frederick Mine. The mine, with some thirty miles of underground tunnels, is one of the largest in southern Colorado.¹⁴ The settlement was named for Gabriel Valdez, who homesteaded here about 1900.¹⁵

Vallejo, La Plata County, see *Allison*.

Vallery, Morgan County community. The station here was named for George W. Vallery, general passenger agent of the Burlington & Missouri Railroad.¹⁶ A post office was established in March, 1908,¹⁷ but mail is now received at Fort Morgan, seven miles west.

Valley City, Clear Creek County, see *Empire*.

Valley View Springs (10 population), Saguache County summer resort in Iron Mountain Canyon, was named for the view to be had from its location.¹⁸

Vallorso (50 population), Las Animas County coal-mining camp. The Bear Canon Coal Company operates a mine here, and the Colorado & Southern Railroad station is called Bear Canon. Postal officials, however, refused to open an office under this name because of the similarity to other post offices in the state; *Vallorso* (Italian, "valley of the bear"), was then chosen.¹⁹

Valverde, Denver County (formerly Arapahoe County). "A new town has been laid out on the line of the Denver & South Park Railroad, two miles south of Denver (November, 1873) . . . under the auspices of the Valverde Town and Improvement Company."²⁰ Platted by Edward A. Reser, July 17, 1882, and incorporated in 1888,²¹ it was annexed as part of the city of Denver May 7, 1903.²²

¹¹Data from Mrs. Edna Tawney, Field Staff Writer, Grand Junction, Colorado, in 1939.

¹²Data from I. N. DeLong, Postmaster, Utleyville, in 1935, to the State Historical Society.

¹³*Colorado State Business Directory*, 1920, 952.

¹⁴*Colorado, A Guide to the Highest State*, 347.

¹⁵Data from John Searle, Valdez, February 26, 1941.

¹⁶Data from William Painter, Roggen, Colorado, in 1935, to the State Historical Society.

¹⁷*Turret Gold Belt*, March 18, 1908.

¹⁸Data from Kenneth Sohn, Valley View Springs, in 1939.

¹⁹Data from Bear Canon Coal Company, Trinidad, Colorado, January 21, 1935, to the State Historical Society.

²⁰*Denver Weekly Tribune*, November 26, 1873.

²¹Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, III, 285.

²²Data from Tax Assessor, City and County of Denver, March 11, 1942.

The name is of Spanish origin, *val* meaning "valley," and *verde* "green."

Vanadium (7 population), San Miguel County post office village centers a mining and stock-raising area. As the site of the United States Vanadium Corporation mill (now closed), the village was named for nearby mines.²³

Vernon (75 population), Yuma County prairie settlement, lying in a dry-farming and stock-raising community, was formerly called Condon's Corners, for Barney Condon, founder of the *Wray Rattler*, who homesteaded a little west of the present townsite, and operated a small store in 1880.²⁴ The town was laid out in 1892 by a townsite committee, and each committeeman proposed a name; T. A. Wilson's suggestion was agreed upon.²⁵

Veta Pass (15 population), Costilla County village is on the now abandoned Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad line. (See *La Veta* for derivation of name.)

Vicksburg, Chaffee County ghost camp was founded in 1880 and named for Vick Kellar.²⁶ On November 29, 1883, articles of incorporation were filed.²⁷ By 1884, the camp, lying some twelve miles from Granite, boasted a population of 250.²⁸

Victor, Las Animas County, early name of Hastings. (See also *Hastings*.)

Victor (1,784 population), Teller County's second city of importance, and early known as The City of Mines, and the Mt. Rosa Placer Claim,²⁹ lies toward the southern boundary of the Cripple Creek gold producing district, the world's greatest gold bearing outcrop, with Cripple Creek at the northeastern corner. It was surveyed and platted late in 1893, some two years after "Bob" Womack's discoveries in the El Paso claim had resulted in the founding of the town of Cripple Creek³⁰ (see also *Cripple Creek*). In 1893 Mr. Warren, with Frank and Harry Woods came into the district. Through the Woods Investment Company they gained control of the townsite. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Woods decided to call their new town Victor, partly for the Victor Mine and partly for its nearness to the larger producing mines of the district. The town grew slowly until, in the excavation made for the Victor Hotel, the Gold Coin mine was discovered. In five years, between

²³Data from Mrs. Edna Tawney, Field Staff Writer, Grand Junction, Colorado, in 1939.

²⁴State Historical Society, Pamphlet 252, No. 9.

²⁵"History of Yuma County," Thesis by C. V. Dedman, 107.

²⁶*Rocky Mountain News*, October 5, 1880.

²⁷*Denver Times*, November 29, 1898.

²⁸*Colorado State Business Directory*, 1884, 347.

²⁹Data from C. M. Lightburn, Engineering Department, Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad, Denver, Colorado, February 26, 1941, to the State Historical Society.

³⁰*Colorado Magazine*, IX, 183.

1896 and 1901 this mine produced \$5,500,000. The Florence & Cripple Creek Railroad reached Victor in 1894, and during the same year a spur line, the only standard gauge line into the district, was constructed from Divide by the Midland Terminal Railroad. In April, 1901, the Short Line was built as a direct connection with Colorado Springs.³¹ Victor was incorporated July 16, 1894.

Vilas (129 population), Baca County was named in honor of Senator Vilas of Wisconsin.³² The settlement had its beginning July 18, 1887, and scarcely a year later bitter rivalry had developed with the nearby town of Boston (see also *Boston*). Boston drew away a large part of Vilas, including the only bank and a drug store, but Vilas refused proposals to consolidate.³³ Today Vilas is an important agricultural center and Boston has vanished.

Villa Grove (200 population), Saguache County mining and stock-raising center was laid out in the 1870s by a Mr. Hills. The name Villa, "village," and Grove, was given because a beautiful grove surrounded the original townsite.³⁴ Until the extension of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad down the San Luis Valley to Alamosa in 1890, it was the terminus of a narrow gauge branch from Poncha Pass, which gave it importance as a shipping point.³⁵

Virginia City, Gunnison County, see *Tin Cup*.

Virginia Dale, Larimer County, was a favorite camping place for emigrant trains in 1864, 1865 and 1866. The present community surrounds the old, bullet-scarred stage station, established in June, 1862, by Joseph A. (Jack) Slade, and named by him for his wife, Virginia Dale. This was the first division point northwest of Denver on the Overland Stage Line, and remained so until its abandonment in 1867, when the Union Pacific Railroad was completed to Cheyenne.³⁶ A post office was established here in October, 1874.³⁷

Vollmar, Weld County, was named in honor of George Vollmar, who came to the Platteville district from Missouri in 1860. It was on land owned by Vollmar that the townsite was platted May 8, 1910, by the Denver-Laramie Realty Company, when the now abandoned Denver-Laramie & Western Railroad was built through here. Promoters planned the town as a summer resort, but the

³¹*Cripple Creek and Colorado Springs* (Warren & Stride, Colorado Springs, Publishers, 1896), 28.

³²*Teller County Yearbook-Directory*, 1935, 11 and 14.

³³Data from Alyce Erickson, Superintendent of Schools, Vilas, November 13, 1935, to the State Historical Society.

³⁴*Denver Evening Times*, August 10, 1888.

³⁵Data from Clifford Meister, Villa Grove, February 26, 1935, to the State Historical Society.

³⁶Ansel Watrous, *History of Larimer County*, 189-90.

³⁷*Rocky Mountain News*, October 5, 1874.

venture did not prosper and some of the original plat has reverted to farm land.³⁸

Vona (226 population), Kit Carson County agricultural and stock-raising town, was settled in 1888, mostly by employes of the Rock Island Railroad. The town was promoted by Pearl S. King, a lawyer of Burlington, Colorado, who named it for his niece, Vona.³⁹ It was incorporated August 9, 1919.

Vulcan, Gunnison County gold and silver camp. The principal mineral excitement in Gunnison County in 1895 was the discovery of the Vulcan and Chimney mines. In consequence a town of 200 inhabitants sprang up.⁴⁰ A deposit of sulphur ore opened in the Vulcan gold mine, ran 80 per cent.⁴¹ In late years there has been no pronounced activity here.⁴²

A Brief Sketch of Springfield, Colorado

PATRICK BYRNES*

Springfield, the pioneer town of Baca County, Colorado, was founded along in the middle 1880s, mostly by a town company organized at Winfield and Wellington, Kansas. In the venture the promoters hoped to reap a fortune, as was the ambition in those hectic times.

The organizers were shrewd and alert businessmen who had a liberal schooling in the building of Kansas boom towns and taking leading parts in the then favorite pastime of indulging in county seat contests or "wars."

The site chosen for Springfield was fifty miles due south of Lamar, Colorado, the nearest railroad station. From this point all the building materials were freighted overland by wagons.

Some substantial buildings, storerooms and dwellings, all of lumber, were erected, and settlers began to arrive from various points and take up homesteads. The town enjoyed a few years of prosperity, as the people were generally of a high class, diligent and enterprising, and loyal to their new locality. Indeed, it was a beautiful landscape, situated as it was between Cat and Bear Creeks and embellished with several scenic short canons, lined with a variety of brush and cottonwood trees.

*Data from George Hodgson, Curator Meeker Museum, Greeley, Colorado, and town plats, Greeley, Colorado.

²Data from E. H. Haynes, Vona, January 8, 1941.

³*Denver Times*, December 31, 1895.

⁴*Gunnison News*, March 31, 1899.

⁵Data from Edna Tawney, Field Staff Writer, Grand Junction, Colorado, in 1940.

*Mr. Byrnes lives in Pueblo today.—Ed.

A stage coach line with four-in-hand teams of wiry and speedy horses made daily trips between Springfield and Lamar, an hour being spent each way at noon at the Halfway House, where dinner was served and the teams of horses were changed and fed.

In those early days a county seat had prestige over all other towns, and so it was the prize sought after by all towns. Thus, Minneapolis, Boston, and Vilas became keen competitors of Springfield in the county seat "war," as it was commonly called. But in various ways Springfield got the bulge on the others from the start and held it through various elections until in 1890 it became the permanent seat of the county government.

The strife was keen and rough, the most exciting event being the burning of a frame hotel that was being moved from Boston to Springfield, twenty miles to the south. This occurred as the movers rested one dark, rainy night near the town of Vilas, midway between the two other towns.

Several arrests of suspects on the charge of arson were made, and preliminary trials were held, but finally the case was dropped and Springfield still held the county seat, as it does at the present time. It has grown to be a thriving Western town, with a railroad, good buildings, the center of a rich farming and livestock settlement in the plains country.

As evidence of the enterprise, push and effective leadership of Springfield men, it can be said that besides winning the county seat prize they also took the lead previously in having Baca County carved out of the east end of Las Animas County.

This was quite a big undertaking, for the consent of the people of Las Animas County first had to be obtained, and then the matter of creating a new county had to be fought out in the state legislature.

Following this, through Springfield's influence, the state legislature enacted a law which provided that where an established county seat caused a suitable and costly court house to be erected it would thereafter be necessary for the opposition to poll a two-thirds majority vote instead of a simple majority for removal of the county seat to another town. The Boston Hotel was intended to be the new Springfield Court House.

The writer of this article, in partnership with S. W. Love, published the *Springfield Herald* several years. The writer also held a government position for taking final proofs of settlers for proving up on homesteads and preemptions, and thus was in a favorable position to become acquainted with the people and the current events of the time and place.

It would require volumes to record the highlights of the many interesting events, the festivities and the tragedies of the early days,

for they were numerous and full of romance, as frontier days usually are; but that is beside the matter of writing a brief history of the town, which is the subject of this short article.

Finally, let it be said that a bad drought in 1890 and the subsequent falling off in values of town and rural properties and the business depression resulted in the hegira of most of the inhabitants. They drifted to other parts of Colorado, the writer and his partner, S. W. Lowe, landing in Pueblo and began the publication of the Pueblo (Bessemer) *Indicator* in 1890; others went to Pueblo, Lamar, Trinidad and other places, while some left the state.

In after years, the few who remained in Springfield and the rural districts lived to see a gradual comeback of the town and the surrounding country, in spite of ruinous dust storms and droughty seasons.

Now a fine paved highway runs from Lamar to Springfield over which automobiles and buses cover the distance of fifty miles in a short time; whereas, in the early days, an entire day was taken up in traveling the route by stage coach.

This story, covering salient events of more than a half century ago, is written entirely from memory, and while many details have necessarily been omitted, in the main the facts are substantially correct.
